

CityScene



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www.independencemo.org
City of Independence, MO

How Old is Your Smoke Alarm?



Nearly every home is equipped with a smoke alarm these days. Every one of the smoke alarms has an expiration date. Do you know yours?

According to the Independence Fire Department and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), smoke alarms don't last forever. The National Fire Alarm Code® requires smoke alarms to be replaced at least every 10 years, but the public is generally unaware of this requirement.

As a result, many homes have smoke alarms which are past their expiration date, putting people at increased risk.

Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15, 2016. As the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years, NFPA is promoting this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years."

Their goal is to better educate the public about the critical importance of knowing how old their smoke alarms

are, and replacing them once they're 10 years old.

To find out how old your smoke alarm is and its expiration date, simply look on the back of the alarm where the date of manufacture is marked. No matter when the alarm was purchased or installed, the smoke alarm should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.

The Independence Fire Department also says smoke alarms should be tested monthly, and that batteries should be replaced at least once a year or if they begin to chirp, signaling the battery charge is running low.

For more information on smoke alarms and this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait: Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years," visit www.firepreventionweek.org.

For information about fire prevention in your home, contact Independence Fire Inspector Glenda Knisely at (816) 325-7121 or gknisely@indepmo.org.



New Police Chief Sworn in August 3



On August 3, Brad Halsey was sworn into office as the new Police Chief for the City of Independence, following the retirement of Chief Tom Dailey in July.

Chief Halsey began his career in law enforcement in 1991. His 24-year career with the Independence Police Department has included serving on the special response team, on the entry team and as a sniper. He has worked in both Gang and Arson Investigations as well as the Fugitive Task Force with the U.S. Marshalls.

During these years, Chief Halsey has received numerous commendations, including the Meritorious Service Award in 2002 for his assistance in the development of the Block Training Program. Several commendations were awarded for his involvement in various drug investigations, meth lab discoveries and homicides. In 2005, he received the Bronze award at the KMBC-9 Metro Sheriffs and Police Association Valor Awards.

Chief Halsey earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Central Missouri State University and later a Master's Degree from the Naval Post-Graduate School. He is currently serving on the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee, among others.



Independence Police Chief Brad Halsey.

Prescription Drug Drop-Off October 22

Make your home safer this fall by clearing out the medicine cabinet.

If you have leftover prescription drugs or outdated over-the-counter medications and want to safely dispose of them, the Independence Police Department is ready to help.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 22, come to the large parking lot north of City Hall (across the street from Police Headquarters). The officer will be in a marked police car close to Truman Road. Just drive-up and drop-off.

You do not have to remove the labels from pill bottles or medicine containers. All items will be sealed in a box and

taken to an incinerator. No record is kept of items which are brought in.

For safety reasons, the drop-off cannot accept inhalers (which could explode when burned) or needles. However, pre-loaded syringes (with the needles removed) and Epi Pens are accepted.

Wondering about those pills prescribed for your pet? Yes, veterinary drugs are also accepted.

For more information about the event contact Officer Phil Hininger at (816) 325-7279.

Got Drugs?



Veterans Project Seeks Local Photos

Independence Parks & Recreation is planning an exceptional tribute this fall to honor local veterans.

On Sunday, November 6, the annual Veterans' Day event will be held at the Truman Presidential Library & Museum. Local veterans will be spotlighted with a special display of photographs and personal stories.

In preparation for the event, you are invited to send in copies of military service photographs featuring you, a family member or a family friend. For each

veteran pictured, include their name, dates of service, branch, conflict or war, and any additional information or story you would like to have displayed with the photo.

Include your contact information in case the display organizers need to get in touch with you. Don't send original photos – only copies – as photos will not be returned. Photos may be submitted electronically via email to kzimmerman@indepmo.org. You may also mail or hand-deliver photos to the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W.



Maple Ave., Independence, MO 64050, Attention: Miriam Alexander. All items must be submitted by Monday, October 3.

For more information about this special event, contact Miriam Alexander at (816) 325-6200. Your contributions will make this an event to be remembered.

Truman Road Customer Service Center Moving Soon

Have you noticed the building construction project just east of M-291 on the south side of 23rd Street?

The professional building attached to the former Medical Center of Independence is now under renovation to become the Independence Utilities Center. When the renovations are completed later this year, the Utilities Customer Service office currently at Truman Road and Forest will close and all services will be moved to the new location at 17221 E. 23rd Street. In addition, the administrative offices for Independence Power and Light, the Water Department and Water Pollution Control will relocate to the new building.



The new Independence Utilities Center will be opening this fall at 17221 E. 23rd Street.

Public areas have been designed to improve customer service with more space for visitors to park, easier access to the offices and an improved drive-through experience. It will also include interactive

educational displays, state of the art audio/visual capabilities and enhanced security features.

In addition to bringing the utilities' administrative operations together under one roof, the building has been designed to be one of the most energy efficient buildings in the region. It is expected to receive the highest LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating of Platinum.

The final move-in date won't be set for several weeks yet, but information will be shared as soon as possible. Watch for updates as the Independence Utilities Center project progresses.

Building Permit Information Now Online

This time of year there is a lot of construction activity taking place and it may seem there are not enough hours in the day to get everything done.

The City of Independence offers citizens, businesses and visitors access to Building Permit services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Building Permit and Inspections webpage at www.independencemo.org/ComDev/BuildingInspections.

Under **Search Permit Status**, by entering either the permit number or the property address, you can track the status of a permit application and/or obtain the results of inspections for current construction projects or past projects which are complete. This information can be viewed from 1998 and forward.

You can apply for electrical, plumbing, mechanical and roofing permits by using the **Online Permit Application** link. Once the required information is entered and

submitted to the City, staff will verify the application. With the permit application in order, the payment can be submitted online. Click on the **Online Permit Payment** option from the Building Permit and Inspections webpage, enter your building permit number, and make your online payment. There is also an option to print your permit.

The **Online Inspection Request** offers online scheduling of inspections for electrical, plumbing, mechanical and roofing permits. Inspections can be scheduled for permits which have previously been issued.

For more information about the City's online building permit services, please visit the City's website at www.independencemo.org/ComDev/BuildingInspections or contact the Building Inspections Division of the Community Development Department at (816) 325-7401.

The Mile Starts Here 2.0
Everyone is welcome. See you there!

October 5 – 9 a.m. Mile Walk
Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Dr.
Meet in the parking lot near the playground.

October 12 – 9 a.m. Mile Walk
McCoy Park, 800 N. Bess Truman Parkway
Meet at the gazebo across from the park.

October 13 – 6 p.m. Scavenger Hunt
Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Dr.
Meet in the parking lot near the playground.

October 25 – 9 a.m. Dog Walk
Santa Fe Park, 2900 S. Santa Fe Rd.
Meet in the parking lot near the entrance from Santa Fe Road. Dogs must be on leash.

Building a **Healthier Independence** Questions? Call (816) 325-7185

Have Fun With These Fall Activities

Leap into fall with the *10th Annual Touch-A-Truck* event! From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on **Saturday, October 1**, the parking lot at the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena, 19100 E. Valley View Parkway, will be filled with a wide variety of vehicles – including fire trucks, police vehicles, ambulances and trash trucks.

Last year's event welcomed more than 4,000 kids and their families as they got a closer look, honked the horns and learned firsthand how these vehicles impact their daily life. For details on this free event, contact Independence Parks, Recreation and Tourism at (816) 325-7843.



Stay healthy with *The Mile Starts Here 2.0* free walks. Four walks in October provide four different opportunities to get out and exercise, including two walks at Waterfall Park, 4501 S. Bass Pro Drive. Don't forget to include your four-footed friend on **Tuesday, October 25**. Put your puppy on a leash and bring him along!

The elections of 1844! Come to the National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 W. Pacific, at 7 p.m. on **Saturday, October 8** and learn all about the mud-slinging and vegetable-throwing which made the 1844 election one for the books. Tickets are \$10 per person. For more information, call (816) 325-7575.

For a real change of pace, visit the Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty, from 6 to 8 p.m. on **Saturdays, October 8 or 15**, and learn



all about Victorian Funeral Customs. Do you know why a visitation before a funeral service is called a "wake?" Do you know what the term "Saved by the Bell" means? Find out the answers at this special event. Tickets are available now; \$25/couple and \$15 single. Call (816) 325-7430 or (816) 325-7111 for tickets and information.

Bring your binoculars to view the Hunter's Moon during the Full Moon Hikes at 7 p.m. on **Friday and Saturday,**

October 14 and 15 at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Road. Friday night's hike will be off-trail, so wear sturdy shoes and leave baby strollers at home. Saturday night's hike will be on paved trails and designed for anyone who cannot walk on uneven terrain. It will be stroller and wheelchair accessible. Reserve your space by 5 p.m. on the day before the hike by calling (816) 325-7115.

Are you ready to take care of your family in a disaster? Learn how to be prepared for an emergency by attending one of the free classes being offered by the Offices of Emergency Preparedness of Eastern Jackson County. Classes are held from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of the month at the McCoy Park Storm Shelter, located behind Fire Station #1 at 950 N. Spring Street. On **Saturday, October 15**, the topic will be Weather Safety. Questions? Call (816) 325-7167.

Ahoy, mates! It's the *Pirate Palooza*, a fun, musical pirate adventure at the Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd. Presented by puppeteer **Kraig Kensing**, performances will be at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on **Saturdays, October 15 and October 22**. Tickets are \$6 per person and available at the door, but advance reservations are requested at (816) 833-9777.



Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the "Enchanted Forest" at George Owens Nature Park, 1601 S. Speck Road. This annual non-scary alternative to Halloween is designed for children ages 3 – 9, but children of all ages are welcome! The gates open at 7 p.m. on **Fridays and Saturdays, October 21 and 22; and October 28 and 29**. Arrive early, as the line closes at 9 p.m. Admission is \$3 per person age 2 years and older; cash and cards accepted.

Princesses, heroes, and fairy tale characters (and super-heroes!) are highlighted in short scenes along the candlelit trail. At the end of the trail, enjoy a wagon ride by the lakes for a special scene celebrating the Silver Anniversary. Concessions available. For more information, call (816) 325-7370 or (816) 325-7115.

For more information about October events and activities, contact Tourism at (816) 325-7111 or at www.visitindependence.com.

Draining Your Pool? Do It Right!

Did you know draining your swimming pool can be a source of stream pollution?

Water from pools and spas may contain copper or chlorine, which can be toxic to aquatic life. These chemicals burn the gills of fish, destroy sensory organs, interfere with their ability to find food, and can cause internal organ damage. Copper found in algacides can also cause the formation of acidic pH levels. If you need to drain your pool, be sure to:

- Run without chlorine for 3 to 5 days, testing the chlorine levels
- Maintain a pH of 6.0-8.0
- Start draining before algae growth begins

- Drain very slowly to limit runoff

You may drain the pool slowly into your own yard **only** if the water stays within your property boundaries. There can be no runoff onto adjacent lots. Releasing the water too quickly can create nuisances like standing water or eroding soil.

If draining on your property is not possible, pools and spas should be drained to the sanitary sewer so the water ends up at the treatment plant where all chemicals, including chlorine, can be removed. This can be done through any plumbed drain in your home, including a floor drain or sanitary sewer clean-out.

To locate the sanitary sewer clean-out, look for a small circular cap on a pipe. This may be located on the ground or side of your home. Also, if your kitchen or bathroom is on an exterior wall of your house, look along that wall for the clean out.

If there are no other options, pool water can be slowly (approximately the speed of a garden hose) released to the storm sewer only after it is free of chlorine and pH has been adjusted to appropriate levels (6.0 – 8.0).

A salt water pool should always be drained to the sanitary sewer not the storm sewer.

Protecting water quality in our storm system, creeks and streams is the responsibility of every citizen, and is part of our state permit for the Storm Water Management Program.

For more information about pool maintenance or proper yard waste disposal, call Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711.

Directory

CityScene is published monthly by the City Manager's Office, 111 East Maple Street, Independence, Missouri 64050. For information call 325-7170. Web-site address is www.independencemo.org. Follow us at [Twitter.com/CityofIndepMO](https://twitter.com/CityofIndepMO).



Where To Call

The City of Independence has an automated voice-response telephone system. Call (816) 325-7000 and say the name of the person or the department you wish to contact.



- Adopt-a-Street** 325-7602
- Barking Dogs** 325-7213
- Building Permits** 325-7401
- Business Licenses** 325-7079
- Crime Stoppers Tips** 474-8477
- Drop-Off Trash** 325-7623
- Drugs** 325-6272
- Graffiti** 257-7824
- Municipal Court** 325-7230
- Neighborhood Watch** 325-7643
- Park Vandalism** 325-7208
- Police Non-Emergency** 836-3600
- Fire Non-Emergency** 325-7123
- Potholes** 325-7624
- Report Power Outage** 325-7550
- Street Lights** 325-7535
- Storm Water Pollution** 325-7727
- Utilities**
- Customer Service** 325-7930
- Pay by Phone** 325-SERV
- Payment Assistance** 254-4100
- Weeds, Trash** 325-7193

City Drop-Off Depot 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, September 10

875 Vista Avenue

From M-291, take Truman Road east approximately one mile, then north on Vista Avenue.

- Trash:** Cars, \$11;
Trucks, Vans, SUVs, or Trailers 8' or under - \$16;
Trailers Longer than 8' - \$26
- Brush:** Limbs, Firewood, Bushes, Stumps. No Leaves or Grass:
All vehicles and trailers, \$11/load
- Major Appliances:** \$15 Each
- Batteries; Lawnmowers:** Free
- Tires:** Car, \$2; Mounted Car, \$4; Truck, \$5; Mounted Truck, \$11; Farm/Tractor, \$16

Next Drop-Off Saturday, October 8

Residential vehicles only, no commercial. No vehicles larger than a pick-up truck. Proof of residency required.

Independence
Farmers' and Crafters'
Market
Accepting SNAP!
(EBT/Food Stamps)
Open for the Season!

Walnut St. & Liberty St.
Independence, MO 64050

Wednesday and Saturday:
6:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



INDEPENDENCE
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Regional Animal Shelter 21001 E. Hwy. 78, Independence

Help them find a forever home.
Adopt a homeless pet.

Noon - 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Call (816) 621-7722

Always
Spay or
Neuter!



Recycling Centers

13600 E. 35th Street
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Fridays
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturdays

875 Vista Avenue
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sundays
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mondays

MRC operates the two City recycling centers. Items accepted include paper, cardboard, steel & aluminum cans, plastic, glass bottles, electronics, appliances, computers, televisions, lawn and garden equipment and batteries.

FEES: Non flat-screen TVs 26" or less are \$30; TVs larger than 27" are \$50. All sizes of LED, LCD and Plasma flat-screen TVs are \$10. Any items containing Freon, including air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, etc., are \$10 each. Non flat-screen computer monitors are \$5 each, unless a computer CPU is left at the same time, then it is free. All other items are free of charge.

Watch City Meetings On Streaming Video

City Council meetings and study sessions are available as live and archived streaming video on the City's website, www.independencemo.org.

Each live City 7 TV broadcast is available online during the 6 p.m. Monday City Council meetings. An archive of the program is available on the site the next morning for viewing 24 hours a day. Archived videos are available for a few months following their posting. If you would like to purchase a copy of a Council meeting call (816) 325-7762.

CITY COUNCIL

- Mayor**
Eileen Weir (816) 325-7027
- City Council Office** (816) 325-7022
www.independencemo.org/citycouncil
- Councilmembers**
- John Perkins District 1
- Curt Dougherty District 2
- Scott Roberson District 3
- Tom Van Camp District 4
- Karen DeLuccie At-Large
- Chris Whiting At-Large
- City Manager**
John Pinch (816) 325-7170

CITY 7 City of Independence

Government Access Television

CITY COUNCIL

6 p.m. Mondays*
10 a.m. Tuesdays
7 p.m. Wednesdays
2 p.m. Sundays

PLANNING COMMISSION

6 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays*
10 a.m. Wednesdays
7 p.m. Thursdays
For more information:
www.City7.TV

*Denotes live meeting, all others are rebroadcasts.